

**CITIZEN'S TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**City of Mesa Council Chambers**  
**57 East First Street, Upper Level**  
**Mesa, AZ**  
**October 25, 2001**

**MEETING MINUTES**

A Citizen's Transportation Oversight Committee (CTOC) public meeting was held at the City of Mesa Council Chambers, 57 East First Street, Mesa, Arizona on October 25, 2001 with Brian Campbell presiding.

**Members Present:**

Brian Campbell, Member-At-Large  
Jim Lykins, Maricopa County District 2  
Paul Schwartz, Maricopa County District 4

**Members Absent:**

William G. Beyer, Chairman  
Ron Gawlitta, Maricopa County District 3  
Tom Liddy, Maricopa County District 1

**Others Present:**

|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Lynn MacFadyen, Citizen   | A.G. Bullock, Citizen           |
| Rodd Mas, Citizen   | Shana Looney, Citizen           |
| Dan Cool, City of Chandler  | Dan Galvin, Granite Sundt       |
| Curt Slagell, Citizen   | Elizabeth Neville, ADOT         |
| Don Fairbanks, Town of Gilbert                                      | Tony Malaj, Maricopa County     |
| Jim Boyle, Citizen  | J. Thorn, Citizen               |
| Greg Holtz, Citizen   | Representative Dean Cooley      |
| Chuck Eaton, ADOT   | Bill Hayden, ADOT               |
| Hector Stelana, Citizen   | Doris Schwartz, Citizen         |
| Rock Arnett, Transportation Board                                   | Jim Davidson, Mesa City Council |
| Kwi-Sung Kang, ADOT   |                                 |
| Don Stapley, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors                   |                                 |
| Jeff Martin, City of Mesa, Assistant Development Services Manager   |                                 |
| Jacob Moore, Special Asst. on Congressional and Legislative Affairs |                                 |
| Tom Buick, Maricopa County Dept. of Transportation                  |                                 |

**1. Call To Order:**

**Mr. Brian Campbell, CTOC member,** called the Citizen's Transportation Oversight Committee public meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

## **2. Welcome**

**Mr. Jim Davidson, City of Mesa Councilmember**, welcomed CTOC members to Mesa and expressed the Mayor's regret in being unable to attend the meeting. He said the City of Mesa recognizes the importance of CTOC and the role of its members in communicating with citizens on the various regional transportation issues facing the state. He stated jurisdictional cooperation is extremely important to Mesa, particularly in light of ADOT's aggressive construction schedule for completing the regional freeway system. He said improvements to roads that intersect the freeway are of particular importance, explaining without the improvements the roads would not be capable of handling the increased traffic associated with the new freeways. He noted Mesa's City Council recently approved accelerating surface street improvements to keep pace with the accelerated freeways. He said everyone suffers when other jurisdictions impede road and freeway improvements. He acknowledged the difficulty some jurisdictions will have in keeping up with ADOT's aggressive construction schedule.

Mr. Campbell recognized Mr. Davidson for his leadership, especially in transportation issues, stating his Chairmanship of the Transportation Subcommittee in Mesa has been exemplary.

Mr. Campbell congratulated Victor Mendez on his appointment to Director of ADOT.

Mr. Campbell updated members on Loop 202 near Recker Road., stating Mr. Hayden is currently at a meeting discussing the problem. He said it is his understanding that there is an issue with the width of the freeway, as it traverses through the developments. He explained that adjustments were not made to the width of the right-of-way footprint when the freeway was expanded to six lanes. He said he has heard they are willing to mitigate the impact, as best they can.

**Mr. Don Stapley, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors**, complimented Mr. Tom Buick, stating he has been an educator and enthusiastic supporter of regional cooperation. He noted Governing Magazine is currently doing an in-depth evaluation of Maricopa County, expressing his opinion that Maricopa County ranks among the top echelon. He said they had great hopes that the Vision 21 Task Force Governance Subcommittee would address specific issues regarding the dysfunction of the government, however, he has not seen anything done statewide. He explained he is concerned about their ability to move goods and people efficiently in the future. He said counties lack the money and governance authority necessary to be effective leaders.

## **3. Regional Freeway System**

**Bill Hayden, ADOT Ombudsman**, gave an overhead presentation, updating the audience on the status of the freeway construction program, with emphasis on the east valley. He concluded, stating their challenge is to look for ways to provide a balanced transportation system in the future.

#### 4. Jurisdictional Cooperation on Cross Street Improvements

**Tom Buick, Director, Maricopa County Department of Transportation**, passed out copies of the Gilbert Road project milestones and estimated costs of completion. As an example of jurisdictional cooperation, he said four years ago, the County, in cooperation with ADOT and the City of Mesa, were able to amend the design of the Red Mountain freeway as it crossed McKellips to allow for a bridge. He said they have done assessments on nine crossings in the east valley. He stated the shortfall in funding often causes different agencies to act as adversaries. He said the County has been diligent in attempting to building partnerships, citing the bridge across the Salt River at 115<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the Deer Valley bridge as examples of their success in doing so. He said the design for three options for the Gilbert Road Bridge was completed and would have been built ahead of the freeway construction had the necessary partnership existed. He reviewed the Gilbert Road project milestones and potential combined funding contributions. He said the project appears to have support but is awaiting approval by the Mesa City Council, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors and the Tribal Council. He said they hope to streamline the process and that, in the future, there will be a regional transportation authority or district that can be held accountable.

Questions and comments regarding the presentation were as follows:

- Mr. Campbell said he is encouraged by the contribution set forth by the Tribe, pointing out they are not obligated to make a contribution. He asked if it is standard practice for MCDOT to require tribal participation. Mr. Buick clarified that MCDOT cannot require tribal participation and said he would hesitate to classify their contribution as an actual commitment.
- Mr. Campbell asked what would happen if they do not get the \$2.6 million in right-of-way. Mr. Buick said they will be persistent in finding a way to make it work.
- Mr. Campbell asked why the county does not engage in short-term borrowing to accomplish some of the goals. Mr. Buick said the county has a very fiscally conservative approach to financing. He explained that the county had significant debt in 1993, which created a financial crisis, stating the county has no intention of repeating that situation.
- Mr. Campbell asked about the status of Val Vista. Mr. Buick said they support the full six-lane design and are now deciding how it will be funded for construction.
- Mr. Schwartz asked if MAG would be asked to provide additional funding, should the Tribe choose not to contribute. Mr. Buick stated it has been discussed, however, they only have \$5 billion for the entire region.

**Mr. Jeff Martin, Assistant Development Services Manager, City of Mesa**, said they consider Gilbert Road to be a regional project and believe the county should have participated. He said they have partnered with ADOT on many occasions, however, this particular partnership has not worked well. He expressed concern about the funding scheme, stating they are relying on the Indian community to provide funds they have not yet agreed to provide. He questioned what would happen if the Indian community does not provide the \$2.6 million. He pointed out that ADOT's construction schedule is extremely aggressive, stating the City of Mesa has struggled to keep pace.

**Mr. Jacob Moore, Special Assistant on Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community**, stated \$2.6 million is a considerable amount and most likely would not be acceptable to the Council. He stated the Tribe wants to participate and has previously partnered with the state on a number of projects. He said it has been the Tribe's position that, while the bridge will benefit their community, the majority of traffic utilizing the bridge will come from outside the community.

**5. Call to the Public:**

**Lynn MacFadyen, Citizen**, submitted a speaker's card, but left prior to the Call to the Public.

**Rodd Mas, Citizen**, noted it has taken the City of Mesa two years to improve less than one mile between Power and Ellsworth. He expressed concern about traffic that will invade small roads in his neighborhood once McKellips opens, asking what the City of Mesa and ADOT would do to mitigate the impacts.

Mr. Campbell suggested he and Mr. Martin work with staff to address Mr. Mas's concerns.

**6. Close:**

Mr. Campbell called for any further public input, and there was none.

**7. Next Meeting Date:**

**ADOT Board Room, #145-147  
206 South 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
Tuesday, November 20, 2001  
5:00 p.m.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.**